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Economic and Social Council

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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Thirty-eighth session
1-26 June 1998 (part I)

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Thomas **Schlesinger** (Austria)

I. Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational meeting (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 8 May 1998 and the first part of its thirty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters from 1 to 26 June 1998. It held a total of 23 meetings and a number of informal consultations.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the thirty-eighth session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting and revised at its second meeting, is reproduced in annex I below.

3. At its organizational meeting, on 8 May 1998, the Committee, on the proposal of the representative of Austria, decided to include in its agenda for consideration during the first part of its thirty-eighth session the item entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate".

4. In view of the ongoing reform measures by the Secretary-General, which will lead to administrative and structural changes in the Organization, and on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to postpone to its thirty-ninth session consideration of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, as mandated in General Assembly resolution 45/254 A of 21 December 1990.

5. The Committee also decided to consider at its thirty-eighth session the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations publications: enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates" (A/51/946) and the comments by the Secretary-General thereon (A/52/685).

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B. Election of officers

6. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 8 May and 1 June 1998, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:
Mr. Bagher Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chairmen:
Mrs. Sharon Brennen-Haylock (Bahamas)
Mr. Valeriu Tudor (Romania)
Mr. Nester Odaga-Jalomayo (Uganda)

Rapporteur:
Mr. Thomas Schlesinger (Austria)

C. Attendance

7. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Argentina
Austria
Bahamas
Brazil
Cameroon
China
Congo
Democratic Republic of Congo
Egypt
France
Germany
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Japan
Mexico
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Poland
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Zambia
Zimbabwe

8. Togo was not represented at the session, and one seat from the Group of Western European and Other States remains to be filled.

9. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Algeria
Australia
Bangladesh
Belarus
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cote d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Ecuador
Ghana
Hungary
India
Ireland
Jamaica
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Malaysia
Morocco
Namibia
New Zealand
Panama
Philippines
Saudi Arabia
Sweden
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania

10. The following regional commissions and specialized agencies were represented:

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Regional Commissions New York Office

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

11. The Under-Secretary-General for Management, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, the Controller and senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat and of the regional commissions participated in the work of the Committee. At the invitation of the Committee, Mr. Sumihiro Kuyama, Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit, also participated in the work of the Committee.

D. Documentation

12. The list of documents before the Committee at its thirty-eighth session is set out in annex II.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

13. At its 23rd meeting, on 26 June 1998, the Committee adopted the draft report on the work of the first part of its thirty-eighth session (E/AC.51/1998/L.7 and Add.1-30).

Annex I

Agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations: outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.
4. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996-1997;
   (b) Revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001;
   (c) Proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;
   (d) New programme narrative for section 7A, Economic and social affairs, and section 26, Public information, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999;
   (e) Evaluation.
5. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination;
   (b) Progress report on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001;
   (c) United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.
6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit: United Nations publications: enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates.
7. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.
8. Provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-eighth session.

Annex II

List of documents before the Committee at the first part of its thirty-eighth session

A/51/946	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations publications: enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates
A/52/685	Comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations publications: enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates
A/53/6 (in fascicle form)	Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001
A/53/6 (Prog.1)	Political affairs
A/53/6 (Prog.2)	Peacekeeping operations
A/53/6 (Prog.3)	Peaceful uses of outer space
A/53/6 (Prog.5)	Policy coordination and sustainable development
A/53/6 (Prog.7)	Economic and social information and policy analysis
A/53/6 (Prog.8)	Development support and management services
A/53/6 (Prog.13)	International drug control
A/53/6 (Prog.14)	Economic and social development in Africa
A/53/6 (Prog.15)	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
A/53/6 (Prog.16)	Economic development in Europe
A/53/6 (Prog.17)	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean
A/53/6 (Prog.18)	Economic and social development in Western Asia
A/53/6 (Prog.20)	Humanitarian assistance
A/53/6 (Prog.23)	Public information
A/53/6 (Prog.24)	Management and central support services
A/53/6 (Prog.26)	Disarmament
A/53/6 (Prog.27)	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services
A/53/6 (Prog.28)	Economic and social affairs
A/53/90	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives
A/53/122 and Add.1	Report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996-1997

A/53/133	Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation
A/53/134	Report of the Secretary-General on priority setting within the medium-term plan
E/1998/10	Note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women 1996-2001
E/1998/21	Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1997
E/AC.51/1998/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
E/AC.51/1998/2	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the international drug control programme
E/AC.51/1998/3	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme
E/AC.51/1998/4	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fifth session on the evaluation of peacekeeping operations: start-up phase
E/AC.51/1998/5	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fifth session on the evaluation of the programme on environment
E/AC.51/1998/6 (Sect.7A)	Report of the Secretary-General on the new narrative for section 7A, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999
E/AC.51/1998/6 (Sect.26)	Report of the Secretary-General on the new narrative for section 26, Public information, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999
E/AC.51/1998/7	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s
E/AC.51/1998/8	Letter dated 27 April 1998 from the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women to the Chairperson of the Committee for Programme and Coordination
E/CN.6/1998/3	Report of the Secretary-General on the mid-term review of the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001

E/AC.51/1998/L.1 and Rev.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the thirty-eighth session
E/AC.51/1998/L.2	Note by the Secretariat on the current notional costs of documentation and the utilization of interpretation services
E/AC.51/1998/L.3	Note by the Secretariat on the list of Joint Inspection Unit reports
E/AC.51/1998/L.4	Note by the Secretariat on the adoption of the agenda and organization of work
E/AC.51/1998/L.5	Note by the Secretariat on the programme of work
E/AC.51/1998/L.6	Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session
E/AC.51/1998/L.7 and Add.1-30	Draft report of the Committee on the first part of its thirty-eighth session
E/AC.51/1998/INF/1 and Add.1	List of delegations